

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 27, 2020

Administrator Pete Gaynor  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

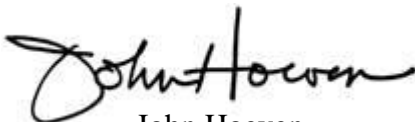
Thank you for your steadfast support of North Dakota as the State continues to grapple with natural disasters as well as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We write in support of the City of Minot's appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding preliminary flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) for Minot, North Dakota and Ward County. We urge you to consider the City of Minot's reasoning and work with local stakeholders throughout the appeal process to grant the appeal.

In June of 2017, FEMA issued its preliminary flood insurance rate maps for the City of Minot and Ward County. The preliminary flood insurance rate maps identified 10,000 cubic feet per second as the 100-year flood level, which is twice the flow that had previously been considered a 100-year flood event. The City prepared its appeal based off revised hydrology and hydraulics that more accurately identify flooding in Minot and Ward County. The City's appeal argues that the drawdown of Canadian dams and historical Souris River management would result in a 100-year event that would not be greater than about 8,000 cubic feet per second, rather than FEMA's proposed 10,000 cubic feet per second.

As you are aware, flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States, and North Dakota continues to face and overcome one flooding disaster after another. Accurate flood insurance rate maps are critical in making localities aware of areas that are at higher risk of flooding so that proper steps can be taken to mitigate future flooding disasters. In this instance, the City of Minot has determined through its review that FEMA's current flood insurance rate map does not accurately represent flooding risks to Minot residents. If the current maps are not modified, a typical, actuarial rate for flood insurance will increase from \$500 per year to \$5,000 per year. Having a more accurate assessment of the flood risk is vital to both preventing such a substantial price increase, as well as allowing the City to have access to the information it needs to make well-informed mitigation efforts. Therefore, we share the belief that the map covering the City of Minot and Ward County should be corrected to reflect the City's appeal.

We urge you to work with local stakeholders throughout the appeal process and accept their appeal so that the flood insurance rate map accurately reflects the flood risk in Minot, North Dakota and Ward County. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer  
U.S. Senator



Kelly Armstrong  
U.S. Congressman